

## FANR FOCUS: WHAT'S THE LATEST?

### APLU's Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources (FANR) Update

#### FROM DOUG'S DESK

*Doug Steele, Vice President*

There was a flurry of activities at the Capitol this past week as both the House and Senate rushed to address the debt ceiling before the June 5th “run out of money” date. The final bill imposes some caps on federal spending and makes major changes to the work requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (which may impact SNAP-Ed programs). It is very good news that the federal government was able to avert a default, which might have had long term implications for many federal programs. The advocacy summary provided by our partners at Lewis-Burke Associates (below) provides additional details.

We are also moving into the summer season of regional and sectional meetings across the country. These are important discussions about strategic priorities, identifying new opportunities, strengthen partnerships, and information sharing. I wish you safe travels and productive meetings.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Washington Update

*Prepared for the Board on Agriculture Assembly by Lewis-Burke Associates*

- **Speaker McCarthy and President Biden Reach Agreement to Suspend the Debt Limit:** President Biden signed the Fiscal Responsibility Act into law, suspending the debt ceiling through January 1, 2025. The FY 2024 President's budget request proposed a \$68 billion or 9 percent increase to nondefense programs, boosting funding for key agencies such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF), Department of Energy (DOE), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) as well as major education, health care and workforce development programs. With a budget agreement in place, both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees plan to advance FY 2024 appropriations bills starting in June.
- **House Agriculture Appropriations:** The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies released their funding outline for agricultural priorities. Although subject to change, the bill currently totals \$25.3 billion, with slight decreases in funding for NIFA's discretionary programs and the Food and Drug Administration. [Read the full report.](#)

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### APLU Statement on the Appointment of Manjit K. Misra as NIFA Director

Doug Steele released [this statement](#) congratulating Manjit K. Misra on being appointed Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture:

“The public and land-grant community congratulates Manjit K. Misra on his appointment as Director of the United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Dr. Misra brings a unique and distinguished background to the role as a researcher,

inventor, and administrator at a land-grant university focused on addressing the broad array of challenges facing agriculture.

The partnership between our nation's land-grant universities and NIFA is critical for the nation. We look forward to working with Director Misra as public and land-grant universities work to deepen their partnership with NIFA to support groundbreaking research and outreach to enhance the productivity, viability, and competitiveness of American agriculture."

Dr. Misra's welcome statement is [here](#). In part, he commented "Most of my career I have studied the science of seeds. Seeds are the foundation of life. They grow when they are planted in fertile soil and are well nurtured... I have been getting settled into the new environment where I have been planted as the director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. This agency is fertile ground, rich in enthusiasm, ideas and will power to serve our partners and stakeholders while producing agricultural innovation for the future."

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### **Welcome to the Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC) Incoming Chair**

The CMC, a standing committee of the Board on Agriculture Assembly's Policy Board of Directors, oversees and guides the effort to increase awareness of the land-grant universities' agricultural research, education, and Extension. The CMC welcomes [Shelly Nickols-Richardson](#), Associate Dean, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences & Director, Extension and Outreach, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, as the Incoming Chair. For more information on the CMC, please see [here](#).

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### **Funding Opportunity: NIFA Releases first Solicitation for Research Facilities Act Program**

[The Research Facilities Act Program \(RFAP\)](#) assists qualifying institutions with costs related to constructing, purchasing, updating, renovating, or modifying agricultural research buildings to conduct research in the areas of agriculture and food sciences. The proposed agricultural research facility must expand the institution's capacity for long-term impactful research and must be the result of thorough strategic planning. Awards may be used to fund the construction of buildings or sites for agricultural research facilities or other facilities that store agricultural research experimental samples or specimens, as well as the purchase of real estate or durable equipment. Activities might include, but are not limited to:

- evaluating infrastructure and sites

- conceptual planning and design for a newly constructed, restored, or rebuilt structure or place
- creating construction plans and schematics for the facility or site that is being built, restored, or rebuilt
- building, restoring, or remodeling a facility or location
- investing in and putting in permanent equipment for research monitoring and safeguarding samples and specimens
- investing in and putting in essential building systems like electricity, climate control, security, life safety, lighting, utilities, telecommunications, and energy management

Application deadline is **July 7, 2023**. For more information, see [The Research Facilities Act Program \(RFAP\)](#).

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## AWARDS & OPPORTUNITIES

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### **Congratulations to APLU's Academic Programs Section 2023 Spring Winners of Innovative Teaching Awards**

APLU's Board on Agriculture Assembly's Academic Programs Section (APS) named winners of its 2023 Spring [Innovative Teaching Awards](#). In their tenth year, the biannual awards are intended to bolster innovation in the post-secondary teaching of agriculture and related fields. Awardees share up to \$5,000 per project, plus \$2,000 in matching funds. The awards program encourages:

- New faculty to expand their scholarship of teaching and learning by creating projects with more senior faculty from their own and other institutions.
- Adoption of innovative teaching and learning experiences for students.
- Institutional collaboration that expands the impact of creative projects to more institutions and students.
- Motivation to seek additional funding for the scholarship of teaching and learning from additional sources.

The winners are:

*Reviving the Waksman Platform – Course-based Undergraduate Research Experience in Antimicrobial Resistance*

**Daniel Czyz, University of Florida and Sarah Al-Mazroa Smith, National Institute of Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Education, Iowa State University**

*Student Development of Cultural Competemility through Virtual Simulations*  
**Jeanette Andrade and Benjamin Lok, University of Florida**

*Teaching the Teachers: Exploring the Undergraduate Teaching Assistant Experience*  
**Brianna Wardwell and Elizabeth Karcher, Purdue University**

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### **Seeking Nominations for the 2023 Seaman A. Knapp Lecture**

Each year USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) joins with the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) to sponsor a lecture presented at the APLU annual meeting. The lecture honors one of the three most important historical figures of the Land-grant University system: William Henry Hatch for research; Seaman A. Knapp for Extension; and Justin Smith Morrill for whom the Morrill Act creating the Land-grant University system is named.

NIFA and APLU are seeking nominations to honor Seaman A. Knapp, the father of the Cooperative Extension concept. In 1906, Knapp initiated the county-agent plan and, to promote the plan, organized boys' cotton and corn growing clubs, followed by a girls' corn and poultry club in 1910. These organizations were the forerunners of the modern 4-H Clubs. In today's rapidly changing world, Cooperative Extension has evolved to meet the shifting local, national and global needs of the people it serves.

We are seeking an insightful topic and a dynamic speaker who can provoke discussion among meeting participants and prepare a formal lecture to be presented prior to the virtual APLU annual meeting in November 12-14, 2023 in Seattle, Washington. While we seek recommendations from those within the Land-grant University system, we also would encourage you to share this memorandum with colleagues outside of the research, education, and Extension system, including stakeholders, foundations, public interest groups or international organizations. Nominations are encouraged from all sources.

Recommendations should be submitted at [Seaman A. Knapp Lecture Nomination 2023](#) by **July 31, 2023**. A committee will review submissions and select a speaker.

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### **Deadline Extended for Experiment Station Section (ESS) DEI Award Nominations**

The ESS seeks nominations of individuals, teams, or programs for the National Experiment Station Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Award. This award recognizes the creation or implementation of pluralistic and inclusive efforts at the local, state, regional or national level.

The due date for submissions has been extended until **June 30, 2023**. There are two awards: individual and group. We encourage you to recognize the exemplary DEI work of your colleagues. For more information, please see the [call for nominations](#).

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### **USDA Seeks Members for Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking nominations for four positions on the Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production. Nominations will be open to public until **July 15, 2023**. More information is [here](#).

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## **APLU / FANR EVENTS**

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### **2023 Joint COPs Summer Meeting and 2023 New Administrators Orientation**

#### **2023 Joint COPs Summer Meeting**

Loew's Kansas City Hotel, 1515 Wyandotte Street  
Kansas City, MO 64108 | July 18 – 20, 2023

**REGISTER NOW - Early Registration Deadline (June 26) is approaching!** Register for The Joint Committees on Organization and Policy (and associated groups) taking place in Kansas City, MO July 18 – 20, 2023 open to elected and appointment leadership from the Board on Agriculture Assembly sections executive committees (Academic Programs Section, Administrative Heads Section, Cooperative Extension Section, Experiment Station Section, International Agriculture Section), The Board on Health and Human Sciences (BHHS), Council on Agriculture Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET) executive committee and liaisons, the Policy Board of Directors and the three standing committees of the Policy Board of Directors: Budget and Advocacy Committee, Committee on Legislation and Policy {Farm Bill}, and Communication and Marketing Committee.

### **2023 New Administrators Orientation**

Loew's Kansas City Hotel, 1515 Wyandotte Street  
Kansas City, MO 64108 | July 19 – 21, 2023

**REGISTER NOW - Early Registration Deadline (June 26) is approaching!** In addition to the Joint COPs meeting, the 2023 New Administrators Orientation will be held in Kansas City July 19-21. The event will have one-day crossover meetings with Joint COPs so that BAA and BHHS leadership can interact with the new administrators beginning at noon on Wednesday July 19. The New Administrators Orientation is intended for individuals on the Board on Agriculture Assembly and their supporting administrators or faculty, who have entered an administrative position recently; USDA-NIFA personnel who are interested; and any others who would like to learn more about APLU, the Land-Grant University System, the BAA, and USDA.

[VIEW DRAFT AGENDA](#)

**Don't forget to make your hotel reservations at the [Loews Kansas City Hotel, 1515 Wyandotte Street, Kansas City, MO 64108](#).**

#### **SAVE THE DATE:**

##### **Joint COPs Optional Excursion**

Thursday, July 20, 2023 | 10:30am-1:00pm CT

Please join us for an excursion to the [Kansas State University's - Olathe Campus](#). Engage with experts focusing on research, extension, and innovation at the intersections of agriculture, food, and health and participate in a [Sensory and Consumer Research simulation](#).

All Joint COPs attendees are welcome to attend. There is no additional cost for this event. Transportation and lunch will be provided. Invitations will be sent to registrants mid-June. If you have questions, please contact Kelly Dalton at [kdalton@aplu.org](mailto:kdalton@aplu.org).

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### **MEMBER UPDATE**

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#### **Congratulations to The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment**

The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (CAFE) received a transformational gift of \$100 million gift from The Bill Gatton Foundation. Nancy Cox, UK vice

president for land-grant engagement and UK CAFE dean as well as the BAA's Communication and Marketing Committee Chair, expressed gratitude for the Foundation's generosity. "Our college has served Kentucky and beyond for over 150 years with 'user-inspired science,' aiming to push boundaries in education and service," Cox said. "We are grateful for the confidence placed in us by the Gatton Foundation, which will allow us to both accelerate our land-grant mission and create new programs to serve our citizens." The full story is [here](#).

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## RESOURCES

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### **USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Funding Opportunities**

View the [NIFA Upcoming RFA Calendar](#) for the latest timeline for grant programs.

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### **APLU Member Job Postings**

APLU has a [job board](#) on which member institutions may list available positions for which they are recruiting.

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**FOCUS** is an update from the Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources office of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) to provide timely, relevant information and actions items to the membership of the Commission on Food, Environment, and Renewable Resources (CFERR) and its member boards and sections.

If you know of someone who would like to receive our newsletter, please ask them to sign up here: [FANR Focus Newsletter](#)

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*Doug*

**Douglas L. Steele**

Vice President, Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities



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